

# Community Engagement Plan



Name of the Service: Hill House School

Name of Registered Manager: Kirsty Marsden

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## Community Engagement (CE) Position statement

At Hill House all students have the opportunity to access the community on a regular basis as part of their curriculum work and during leisure times.

We support students to take part in achievable outings accessing the local area. These may include; walks in the forest, park visits and trips to local shops. By implementing regular opportunities to access the community and travel on a vehicle, students are then able to develop their confidence and tolerance to enable them to access a wider range of community opportunities

Community access is planned. Students are supported and encouraged to develop their independent skills for example; learning how to handle money, use a cash point machine, queue to pay for groceries. They are encouraged to access places such as cafes and restaurants

When out and about, students are encouraged to use their Talk Pads for functional communication giving them opportunities to generalise learnt communication skills in a variety of different settings

Students practise their social skills and learn how to access public places in a safe and appropriate way

Students have the opportunity to choose where they would like to go at the weekend or during a holiday time and visit a wide range of leisure facilities, including going on bowling trips, visits to play mini golf, going out for a meal or enjoying a relaxing time at the beach

Hill House uses a range of external providers and assess the quality of these provisions by completing a thorough risk assessment prior to an activity starting. Hill House also checks the safety of the provision by requesting copies of their risk assessments, Insurance details and confirmation that all relevant DBS checks have been completed

Hill House offers training and support for all external providers. This is an opportunity to come into the school and complete sessions on Safeguarding, Keeping Safe and Communication. This enables us to ensure that all providers are aware of how seriously we take safeguarding and helps them to be able to work with us to support our students

Where possible and applicable we try to link alternative provision and activities to opportunities for external accreditation and students work towards DofE and OCR Life and Living Skills Awards

### Community Engagement objectives for the next 12 months

Students are taught about the public institutions and services in England and have the opportunity to visit a range of places in the community including a trip to the Palace of Westminster, museums, churches, Intech Science Museum, the New Forest National Park and local libraries.

Our sixth form curriculum focuses on developing work experience-based activities. This enables students to begin to experience the world of work.

Students are also encouraged to take part in group school community events and also supports families to be able to enjoy a trip out with their son / daughter.

To ensure that all students are kept safe whilst accessing the community, all locations and activities are carefully risk assessed. Each student also has an Individual Risk Assessment which highlights specific risks / protocols for each student

Being able to access the community in a safe and appropriate way is a target that Hill House has for all students. It is vital that students leave Hill House with the skills needed to be able to access the world in a way that is meaningful to them

Community Engagement Activities – see homes QIP for more detail

| Engagement activity                    | Date | Organisations/Stakeholders involved                    | Benefit to young people / adults                                                                                                                                        | Identified risks                                          | Mitigation of risks                               | Outcomes – including fundraising benefits                                                                                                                                         |
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| Saintsability weekly football sessions |      | Southampton Football Club – Saintsability organisation | This forms part of the HHS PE curriculum. The coach runs a weekly session that all students can access. Skills such as fitness / co-ordination / team work are promoted | External provider coming onto site                        | All checks in place<br>Risk assessment in place   | Improved outcomes for the students / benefits for staff such as free tickets to local matches                                                                                     |
| Music for Autism                       |      | Music for Autism Charity                               | The charity visits each term where musicians play for the school and encourage participation. Great enjoyment is had by students and staff alike                        | External providers coming onto site                       | Risk assessment in place                          | Provides wonderful experiences for all – promotion of a love of music<br>Events have also enabled us to spot talent which has led to some students going on to have music lessons |
| Treehouse theatre                      |      | Treehouse theatre production company                   | The treehouse theatre actors perform fun and interactive productions where everyone can get involved                                                                    | External provider coming onto site                        | Risk assessment in place                          | High levels of enjoyment and engagement / opportunities for students to take part in a performance                                                                                |
| Tile Barn activity centre              |      | Hants Outdoors (Hants County Council)                  | Tile Barn offer a range of outdoor activities for our students e.g. climbing / archery / bushcraft                                                                      | Working with external providers<br>Higher risk activities | Risk assessments in place<br>Permissions in place | Students develop resilience and discover new interests<br>Engagement contributes to the DofE award for some sixth form students                                                   |
| Calshot activity centre                |      | Hants Outdoors (Hants County Council)                  | Calshot offers the opportunity for students to take part in climbing as well as dry slope skiing                                                                        | Working with external providers<br>Higher risk activities | Risk assessments in place<br>Permissions in place | Students develop resilience and discover new interests                                                                                                                            |

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| PedALL inclusive cycling Sessions and events                                                                                          |  | PedALL is hosted by the New Forest National Park Authority and supported by the charity, friends of PedALL | Offers the opportunity for students to take part in cycling through the New Forest as well as take part in events such as sponsored cycling events | Working with external providers            | Risk assessments in place<br>Permissions in place | Students develop their cycling skills and gain enjoyment from spending time outdoors in nature                                                                  |
| School trips linked to curriculum topics – ancient technology centre / science museum / oceanarium / Tudor house museum / Butser farm |  | Range of organisations and locations                                                                       | These trips offer a range of different experiences and learning opportunities linked to the HHS curriculum                                         | Working with a range of external providers | Risk assessments in place                         | Outcomes for students linked to the HHS curriculum aims – developing their communication; independence; self – regulation; resilience and discovery             |
| Work experience at the New Forest Fruit Farm                                                                                          |  | New Forest Fruit Farm                                                                                      | The weekly work experience at the fruit farm forms part of the sixth form curriculum                                                               | Working with an external provider          | Risk assessments in place                         | Work experience contributes to the DofE award scheme as well as the OCR 'World of Work' award<br>Students are also making a contribution to the local community |
| Work experience at New Forest for Ukraine                                                                                             |  | New Forest for Ukraine charity                                                                             | The weekly work experience at New Forest for Ukraine forms part of the sixth form curriculum                                                       | Working with an external provider          | Risk assessments in place                         | Work experience contributes to the DofE award scheme as well as the OCR 'World of Work' award<br>Students are also making a contribution to the local community |
| Work experience at the Red Lion pub                                                                                                   |  | Red Lion Pub                                                                                               | The weekly work experience at the Red Lion local pub forms part of the sixth form curriculum                                                       | Working with an external provider          | Risk assessments in place                         | Work experience contributes to the DofE award scheme as well as                                                                                                 |

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|                                                                                               |  |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                              |                                                   | the OCR "World of Work" award<br>Students are also making a contribution to the local community              |
| Duke of Edinburgh award scheme                                                                |  | Hampshire Outdoors (Hants County Council)          | The DofE award scheme provides opportunities for students to work towards the four main sections of the DofE programme; Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition | Working with external providers                                              | Risk assessments in place<br>Permissions in place | Sixth form students achieve their bronze DofE award!                                                         |
| Shopping in the local community                                                               |  | A range of local shops                             | Students experience going shopping in a range of different settings from small local stores to larger shops such as Ikea                                               | Risks related to being out and about                                         | Risk assessments in place                         | Students develop their independent and resilience skills. They practise their money handling skills          |
| Accessing leisure facilities in the local community – swimming / bowling / cinema / mini golf |  | A range of local leisure facilities                | Students experience going to a range of settings and taking part in a wide variety of different activities                                                             | Risks related to being out and about and accessing different local providers | Risk assessments in place                         | Students find leisure activities that they enjoy and want to do more of                                      |
| Theatre trips                                                                                 |  | A range of theatres in Southampton and Bournemouth | Students have the opportunity to go along to a variety of productions including musicals and pantomimes                                                                | Risks related to being out and about and accessing different local providers | Risk assessments in place                         | Students gain a sense of enjoyment and discovery and build on their resilience being amongst a large crowd   |
| Trips to cafes and restaurants                                                                |  | A range of local cafes and restaurants             | Students have the opportunity to visit cafes and restaurants to have a snack or a meal out                                                                             | Risks related to being out and about                                         | Risk assessments in place                         | Students develop resilience and independence. They also work on their communication skills by making choices |

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|                                                                                 |  |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                   |                           | Trips offer opportunities to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday                                                          |
| Trips to bookshops and libraries                                                |  | A range of local bookshops and libraries | Students can spend time around books                                                                                                                                                                                       | Risks related to being out and about              | Risk assessments in place | Provides opportunities to link in with curriculum topics and to develop a love of reading                                             |
| Using public transport – train / ferry trips                                    |  | Local public transport                   | Students have the opportunity to experience travelling on a range of different public transport                                                                                                                            | Risks related to being out and about              | Risk assessments in place | Students develop their independent skills and this offers opportunities for them to go on exciting trips such as to the Isle of Wight |
| Annual trip to the pumpkin festival                                             |  | Sunnyfields Farm Shop                    | Students have the opportunity to go along to the festival each year                                                                                                                                                        | Risks related to being out and about              | Risk assessments in place | Provides an opportunity to develop resilience being amongst other people                                                              |
| Termly celebration events                                                       |  | HHS                                      | The whole school is invited to join the end of term celebration events at HHS. Family and friends are also invited. There are also often external providers involved such as music, performance artists, visiting caterers | Inviting visitors and external providers into HHS | Risk assessments in place | The celebration events bring a sense of community, enjoyment and celebration<br>An opportunity to acknowledge individual achievements |
| Members of ACoRNS (Autism Community Research Network at Southampton University) |  | ACoRNS                                   | Inclusion in an important external network                                                                                                                                                                                 | None                                              | n/a                       | Enables HHS to be part of some important research, evaluating initiatives and sharing ideas                                           |

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| Hosting trainee teachers through two local training providers |  | Southampton University                                                                                                                                                                                     | Working alongside the teacher programmes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Risks associated with having visitors on site         | Risk assessments in place<br>DBS information provided<br>Trainees treated as visitors throughout their placement | Enables external trainees to come and experience HHS<br>Enables HHS to share what we do            |
| Delivering training as part of teacher training programme     |  | Southampton University                                                                                                                                                                                     | Enables HHS to be part of the teaching programme                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | None                                                  | n/a                                                                                                              | Provides an opportunity to share what we do and enable trainees to learn more about autism         |
| Research work with UCL                                        |  | UCL                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Working alongside an established university                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | None                                                  | n/a                                                                                                              | Enables HHS to be part of vital research which ultimately helps the school to move forward         |
| Work with local Eco groups as part of One Planet Living       |  | Eco Sway                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Opportunities to be part of community projects and organisation members to make a contribution to the HHS OPL initiative                                                                                                                                                    | Risks associated with working with external providers | Risk assessments in place                                                                                        | Supports important OPL outcomes<br>Enables HHS to be part of a range of community projects         |
| The HHS PLC – Professional Learning Community                 |  | The HHS PLC - includes key members of both local and wider professional communities including a retired head teacher, a retired social care inspector and local safeguarding governor, a GP, a social care | To engage in structured professional discussions; enable us to collaboratively work with our local community to improve the school; to hold frank discussions / assessments of performance and outcomes; to have a balance of high support, high challenge and scrutiny; to | Visitors coming onto the HHS site                     | Risk assessments in place<br>Visitors are accompanied at all times                                               | The HHS PLC provide an external perspective on our school in a way that supports and challenges us |

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|  |  | consultant and a professor from Southampton university | form part of the school improvement process; to bring an external perspective to the school; to encourage innovation; to support us to set stretching targets and continue to move forwards |  |  |  |
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